

**RECEIVED**

FEB 06 2008

J. PHIL GILBERT  
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
BENTON OFFICE

*Handwritten: Request as [unclear] of [unclear] 18.3582*  
Dear Honorable Judge J. Phil Gilbert, *per Chamber*

I pray this letter will reach you, finding you in good health, and soaring of spirits. I hope the New Year brings you an abundance of health, happiness, and prosperity.

My name is James Lesure, I am currently incarcerated at FCI Pekin in Pekin, Illinois. My case number is 4:01-CR-40017-001. I know and understand how busy you are so I will get right to the point of why I am writing you.

I grew up in a single parent home raised by my mother. We moved into a gang infested project. Being young my brother and myself had no say so when the sole provider of our home felt the need to move. Everyday going to school was a dangerous adventure. Some days my brother and I did not think we would make it home. Just wearing the wrong colors could mean life or death. The project I lived in was occupied by the Gangster Disciples or GD's. A few blocks up was the Vice Lords. The school we attended was the Latin Kings. So just imagine fighting everyday just to go to school and also to get back home. I endured all of this for years. I graduated from high school. I even went to college. It was a struggle but I preserved and navigated myself through all the madness. I was 18 years of age and never took a drink or experience any drugs. My mother worked and I had to take care of my brother and two sisters. When I went to college my brother was already into deep. I kept asking my mother to allow me to come home and get him. She refused and after a few months I called home and he was dead. My best friend and only brother was dead. I gave up on myself and life and stop believing in anything including myself. I begin to drink and do drugs.

I felt the drinking and drugs numbed my pain. Shortly after that I began to sell drugs. Out of my hurt and my pain I become the person I did not want my brother nor myself to be. My actions led me to prison with a lot of time. For a couple of years I blamed everybody. I blamed society, I blamed the ones who testified on the stand against me. The only one I did not blame was myself. When I finally looked into the mirror and took full responsibility for my actions, I became a man. That is when the true change began to take place. I had to stop blaming and man-up so that I could grow past the pain and evolve into the person I am suppose to be. So I started educating myself and taking college courses:

- \* I took Artist in Residence Program 4-15-02 to 5-22-02
- \* I took Parenting from a Distance 7-29-02 to 9-24-02
- \* I took Stationary Making ACE class 7-1-02 to 9-23-02
- \* I took Basic Electricity ACE class 1-6-03 to 3-25-03
- \* I took Principles of Marketing Illinois Community College credit points 6-9-03 to 7-31-03
- \* I took Principles of Management college course 6-10-03 to 7-31-03
- \* I took Small Business Management college course 8-25-03 to 12-9-03
- \* I took Business Math college course 8-27-03 to 12-11-03
- \* I took Personal Management college course 8-28-03 to 12-12-03
- \* I took Machine Shop 9-17-02 to 2-11-04
- \* I took Data Processing college course 1-21-04 to 5-12-04
- \* I took Accounting 105 college course 1-26-04 to 6-9-04
- \* I took English 105 college course 1-21-04 to 6-10-04
- \* I took the entire Small Business Management course through Illinios Central College from 6-23-04 to 6-23-05 which I graduated the certificate program offered through the school.

This is who I am! Not the same person who came through these doors. I have also joined a program called Promises, which I talk to at-risk youth who visit the institution.

It does not take 20 years for me to understand that I made a an awful choice in life. I know that being a judge your hands were tied down to the guidelines when a person was sentenced in your court

room. Now the power is in your hands once again. God has forgiven me. I have forgiven myself. My family has forgiven me. Now I am asking for the forgiveness of the court who sentence me. Give me a oppurtunity to become a useful member of society. And never again, return to being a cancer of the state. Allow me the oppurtunity to help build up and reconstruct what I tore down. I have no value to society here. With your help in reducing my time I will show how valuable I will be in society.

James Lesure 09975-041  
James Lesure, #09975-041  
P.O. Box 5000  
Pekin, Illinois 61555-5000

PEKD5 \*  
PAGE 001 OF 001 \*

INMATE EDUCATION DATA  
TRANSCRIPT

\* 01-10-2008  
\* 15:35:39

REGISTER NO: 09975-041  
FORMAT.....: TRANSCRIPT

NAME...: LESURE  
RSP OF: PEK-PEKIN FCI

FUNC: PRT

----- EDUCATION INFORMATION -----

FACL	ASSIGNMENT	DESCRIPTION	START DATE/TIME	STOP DATE/TIME
PEK	ESL HAS	ENGLISH PROFICIENT	04-23-2002 0759	CURRENT
PEK	GED HAS	COMPLETED GED OR <u>HS DIPLOMA</u>	05-06-2002 0001	CURRENT

----- EDUCATION COURSES -----

SUB-FACL	DESCRIPTION	START DATE	STOP DATE	EVNT	AC	LV	WRS
PEK	SMALL BUSINESS MANG. CERT- 1YR	06-23-2004	06-23-2004	P	C	C	384
PEK	ENGLISH 105 - AOE	01-21-2004	06-10-2004	C	C	P	0
PEK	ACCOUNTING 105 - AOE	01-26-2004	06-09-2004	C	C	P	0
PEK	DATA PROCESSING - AOE-WED.	01-21-2004	05-12-2004	C	C	P	0
PEK	MACHINE 12:30-3:45P M-F FCI SS	09-17-2002	02-11-2004	P	C	M	800
PEK	PERSONNEL MANG. - AOE	08-28-2003	12-12-2003	C	C	P	0
PEK	BUSINESS MATH - AOE	08-27-2003	12-11-2003	C	C	P	0
PEK	SMALL BUS. MANG. -AOE	08-25-2003	12-09-2003	C	C	P	0
PEK	PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT- AOE	06-10-2003	07-31-2003	C	C	P	0
PEK	PRIN. OF MARKET - AOE	06-09-2003	07-31-2003	C	C	P	0
PEK	BASIC ELECTRICITY- ACE	01-06-2003	03-25-2003	P	C	P	24
PEK	STATIONERY MAKING-ACE	07-01-2002	09-23-2002	P	C	P	24
PEK	PAR DIS 8:30-10:30 AM MON/THUR	07-29-2002	09-24-2002	P	C	P	24
PEK	ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM	04-15-2002	05-22-2002	P	C	P	16

Case Number 4: 01CR40017-001  
I've also held the same job for 5½ years, since I been  
here at Pekin.

G0000

TRANSACTION SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

CC